

## Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 AID-01 SS-07 NSC-06 RSC-01 /025 W

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R 110509Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9716

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 0541

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (THURMOND AND SCOTT)

SUBJ: CODEL THURMOND AND SCOTT

1. SENATORS THURMOND AND SCOTT RECEIVED COUNTRY TEAM BRIEFING ON 8 JANUARY AT EMBASSY. THEREAFTER THEY CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN ITSARANGKUN NA AYUTTHAYA. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A BRIEFING BY MAJOR GENERAL HIXON, COMUSMACHTAI, REGARDING THE MISSION ORGANIZATION AND REORGANIZATION PLANS FOR MACTHAI. CODEL'S OFFICIAL BUSINESS WAS CONCLUDED BY A BRIEFING FROM COLONEL HOLLIS, DEPUTY COMMANDER, JCRC.

2. DURING THE COURSE OF THESE BRIEFINGS THE CODEL VOICED INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING: SENATOR SCOTT ASKED GENERAL HIXON ABOUT THE UTILITY OF USSAG/7TH AIR FORCE AND WAS ADVISED THAT IT SERVED AS A DETERRENT AND PROVIDED THE COMMAND ORGANIZATION FOR A RESPONSE FORCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA IF SUCH WAS AUTHORIZED AND WARRANTED.

3. BOTH SENATORS SOUGHT JUSTIFICATION FOR THE CONTINUED US MILITARY PRESENCE IN THAILAND AND ALSO THE EXTENT OF THAT PRESENCE. THEY WERE ADVISED THAT THE US MILITARY PRESENCE ACTS AS A DETERRENT AND SHOULD REMAIN AS LONG AS THE NEED EXISTS.

4. CODEL EXHIBITED A CONCERN REGARDING THE INSURGENCY PROBLEM IN BOTH THE NORTH AND NORTHEAST SECTIONS OF THAILAND, AND HOW THIS PROBLEM WAS ASSESSED BY THE RTG ITSELF. THEY WERE INFORMED THAT THE RTG MILITARY WAS  
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ACTIVELY CONCERNED AND HAD RESTRUCTURED THEIR FORCES

AND TACTICS TO MEET THE THREAT.

5. SENATOR THURMOND WAS SPECIFICALLY INTERESTED IN THE WORK OF JCRC AND WHEN ADVISED THAT THEIR OPERATION COULD BE LIMITED BY THE MANPOWER CEILINGS IN CAMBODIA AS WELL AS THE FUNDING CEILING IN CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM, HIS IMMEDIATE REACTION WAS THAT THE JCRC SHOULD BE EXEMPT FROM ALL SUCH CEILINGS. DETAILS HAVE BEEN REPORTED BY MACTHAI. KINTNER

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